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**JULY 30, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HELLS ANGELS MEMBERS AND WIFE INDICTED IN
DRUG TRAFFICKING CONSPIRACY**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that a federal grand jury has indicted John Anthony Beal, age 38, of Dunkirk, Maryland; Lewis James Hall, age 34, of Owings, Maryland; Traecy Eugenia Hall, age 42, of Owings, Maryland; and Cornelius Wood Alexander, age 32, of Waldorf, Maryland, for various crimes arising from the distribution of cocaine and methamphetamine, conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, and felon in possession of firearm and ammunition offenses.

On July 24, 2003, Beal, president of the North Beach chapter of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club; Lewis Hall, vice president of the local chapter; Traecy Hall, wife of Lewis Hall; and Alexander, a member of the local chapter, were arrested and taken into custody following a long-term, nationwide investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) into the Warlocks motorcycle club. Two undercover ATF agents became "fully patched" members of the Warlocks motorcycle club and, in that undercover capacity, had contacts with members of the local Hells Angels chapter.

Search warrants were also executed on July 24, 2003, at the Hells Angels North Beach

Clubhouse in Owings, Maryland; residences of Beal, Lewis Hall and Traecy Hall, and Alexander; a car repair shop owned and operated by Lewis Hall in Owings, Maryland; and Alexander's truck and car. Seventeen firearms, in excess of 270 rounds of ammunition, methamphetamine, various documents, a bullet proof vest and vests with Hells Angels insignia were recovered. Arrests and search warrants were also executed as part of the nationwide investigation in New York, Virginia, West Virginia and Florida.

On July 24, 2003, U.S. Magistrate Judge William Connelly released Traecy Hall under the supervision of Pretrial Services, and temporarily detained Beal, Lewis Hall and Alexander pending detention hearings set the following week. On July 28, 2003, Judge Connelly ordered Beal detained pending trial, and released Lewis Hall upon certain conditions. On July 29, 2003, Judge Connelly ordered Alexander detained pending trial. No date has been set for the defendants' appearance for arraignment on the charges.

The indictment charges Beal with one count each of distributing cocaine, distributing methamphetamine, conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, being a felon in possession of ammunition and two counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm. The indictment charges Lewis Hall with one count each of distributing methamphetamine, conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and being a felon in possession of a firearm. Traecy Hall and Alexander are both charged with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The defendants face a maximum sentence of: 20 years in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release and a \$1 million fine for each count of distributing cocaine, methamphetamine and conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine; and 10 years in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release and a \$250,000 fine for each count of being a felon in possession of a firearm or

ammunition.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The criminal charges in both indictments are the result of a joint investigation by the Baltimore Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Maryland State Police, the Montgomery County Department of Police, the Calvert County Sheriff's Department and the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department. The charges are being prosecuted by Assistance U.S. Attorneys Barbara Skalla and Jane Erisman.